

Rapid growth followed over the next several years, including construction of a rectory and the establishment of a church school for kindergarten–eighth grade. While the school closed in 1983 due to falling enrollment, overall growth has continued and the church today is the spiritual home of more than 1,200 families.

The Church of the Annunciation has been served by many distinguished clergy, but some have a special place in the memory of parishioners. Archbishop Walsh entrusted the Rev. William J. Buckley, an experienced priest of 29 years, with the important job of founding the church, overseeing the establishment of the new parish and serving as the first pastor. A practical man as well as a spiritual leader, the Rev. Buckley's first purchase was a 4-by-7-inch leather-bound accounts book in which to record the church's finances. In 1967, the Vietnam War touched the lives of the parish all too closely when the Rev. Charles Watters was killed in action. Pastor from 1956 to 1963, Father Watters was serving as an Army chaplain with the 173rd Airborne Brigade when his unit engaged a heavily armed enemy battalion. During the battle, Father Watters rushed to the front lines to aid wounded soldiers and give last rites to the dying. He repeatedly ran through intense enemy fire to rescue the wounded or give aid, and was eventually struck and killed. Father Watters received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism. The traditions and standards set by Father Buckley and Father Watters are ably carried on today by Father Sheehan.

The Church of the Annunciation has been a center of community life for generations, a gathering place for weddings, funerals and other passages of life not just for today's generation but their parents and grandparents as well. It continues to play a major role in the lives of its congregation and will do so for many years to come. In these times of moral upheaval and increasing violence among our youth—as evidenced by tragic shootings in schools across the nation—we especially value the dedication and commitment of our churches to the guidance of our young people. This is in the best tradition of building upon the strong foundations of our American democracy.

As the Church approaches the 50-year mark, the promise of its future seems bright. The faithfulness of its clergy, the devotion of its congregation and its dedication to Christian values are evidence of its enduring place in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Church of the Annunciation on nearly half a century of serving the spiritual needs of its congregation, and wishing this church and its parishioners the best for the future. God bless and Godspeed.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES SCHULZ

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to the celebrated cartoonist Charles Schulz. His legacy will be remem-

bered around the world for years to come. For 50 years, Mr. Schulz gave us the lovable characters that we could identify with, the Peanuts Gang.

I would also like to inform my colleagues of Schulz's generous contributions to the National D-Day Memorial Foundation in Bedford, Virginia. The Foundation is a group of veterans and volunteers designated by the U.S. Congress to build and maintain a memorial to Allied Forces who invaded the Normandy coast of France on June 6, 1944. The Foundation is charged with designing, building and operating a national memorial that will provide a place of reverence and solemnity honoring those who sacrificed so much on D-Day. The Foundation is committed to educating citizens of the world, especially young people, about the scope of the invasion; the role of individual American service men and women; the sacrifices made by the families and communities on the home front; and the critical importance and significance of D-Day.

Since its creation, Charles Schulz provided great support to the Foundation and the advancement of its goals. All donations in Charles Schulz's name should be directed, per Mr. Schultz's request, to The Campaign to Build The National D-Day Memorial and Education Center.

Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of this man's support for such a worthy cause.

#### COMMUNIST CHINA'S THREAT AGAINST TAIWAN

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, communist China recently issued a so-called "white paper" threatening to attack the republic of China on Taiwan, almost immediately after a high level Clinton Administration delegation led by Strobe Talbott visited Beijing. Reportedly, Talbott told the Chinese dictators that President Clinton wanted "a constructive strategic partnership." Through the militant "white paper" Beijing stated it would militarily conquer Taiwan if Taiwan's democratically elected leaders refused to meet Beijing's timetable for reunification talks. This is a new condition meant to frighten voters in Taiwan prior to Taiwan's presidential election on March 18.

This latest bluster by Beijing is comparable to the 1996 Chinese "missile test" in the Taiwan Strait during Taiwan's first democratic Presidential election. Beijing failed to deter Taiwanese voters from electing President Lee Teng-hui. On March 18, the first time in China's 5,000 year history, Taiwanese voters will democratically choose a new president to replace a democratically elected leader.

Communist China's threats against Taiwan are deplorable. Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and its people should have every right to elect their new leader without any sort of outside interference. Beijing should recognize the fact that the Chinese people now have two separate governments—one democratic and the other a militant dictatorship. Reunification talks between Beijing and Taipei should be conducted as between two equal entities, allowing both sides to discuss the creation of a new

democratic China through the free will of all Chinese people.

During this sensitive period, we should make clear to Beijing that the United States Government has zero tolerance for Beijing's bullying gestures toward the brave people of Taiwan. There current actions are sound reason to deny any trade agreements, such as the so called Permanent Normal Trade Relations proposal.

#### ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IMPROVEMENTS ACT

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to join with my colleague, RAY LAHOOD, in introducing the Organ Donation and Transplantation Improvements Act of 2000, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the national system of organ allocation and transplantation.

Under the provisions of the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has the responsibility for establishing and administering a national organ allocation program. In April of 1998, the Department published a regulation which directs the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) to address a number of inefficiencies and inequities in the existing organ allocation program. UNOS, the United Network for Organ Sharing, and a number of transplant centers, strongly objected to the regulation. The groups in opposition sought and secured a rider to the Omnibus Appropriations enacted in 1998 which blocked implementation of the Secretary's proposed regulation.

In October, 1998, the Congress suspended implementation of the Final Rule for one year to allow further study of its potential impact. During that time, Congress asked the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to review current Organ Procurement Transplantation Network (OPTN) policies and the potential impact of the Final Rule. The IOM study was completed in July of last year and provided overwhelming evidence in favor of the new regulations. Nevertheless, at the end of the last session of Congress, a second moratorium was added onto the Work Incentives Improvement Act, that provided for an additional 90-day delay of implementation of the Final Rule.

In the midst of this debate, last October, the House Commerce Committee debated and reported legislation, H.R. 2418, that would divest the Department of Health and Human Services of any authority to require anything of the OPTN. Functions of a scientific, clinical or medical nature would be in the sole discretion of the OPTN. All administrative and procedural functions would require mutual agreement of the Secretary and the Network.

Opponents of H.R. 2418, including the Governor of the great state of Illinois, believe that the legislation would create an unregulated monopoly of organ allocations, and allow UNOS to run the organ allocation program unfettered. The legislation also favors small states with small centers at the expense of patients waiting for transplants at larger centers.